

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Spot welding tongs ~~(1)~~ for robotic applications for the resistance welding of workpieces and, in particular, sheet metals, of the type including tong arms ~~(3)~~ which are each pivotally mounted on a base body ~~(2)~~ and adjustable by an actuating means ~~(13)~~ and to which electrode holders ~~(4)~~ for the electrodes ~~(5)~~ are fastened, and further including winding means ~~(7)~~ comprising a wind-off roller ~~(10)~~ and a wind-up roller ~~(11)~~ for winding off and on a strip ~~(6)~~ for the protections of at least one electrode ~~(5)~~, wherein the wind-off roller ~~(10)~~ and the wind-up roller ~~(11)~~ of the winding means ~~(7)~~ are arranged on the base body ~~(2)~~ or on the tong arm ~~(3)~~, and that at least one guiding groove ~~(8)~~ is provided on the tong arm ~~(3)~~ ~~and/or~~ and on the electrode holder ~~(4)~~ for the guidance of the strip ~~(6)~~ along the tong arm ~~(3)~~.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Spot welding tongs according to claim 1, wherein means for guiding and deflecting the strip ~~(6)~~, in particular deflection pulleys and slide surface ~~(9)~~, are

provided on the tong arm ~~(3)~~ and/or electrode holder ~~(4)~~.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Spot welding tongs according to claim 1, wherein the wind-off roller ~~(10)~~ and/or the wind-up roller ~~(11)~~ is coupled with a driving means ~~(12)~~ and, in particular, an electronically activatable motor.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Spot welding tongs according to claim 1, wherein the tong arm ~~(3)~~ is formed by a base section ~~(15)~~, and that side pieces ~~(16)~~ are arranged on either side of the base section ~~(15)~~ to project beyond the base section ~~(15)~~, and thus formed depression is designed as a guiding groove ~~(8)~~ for the strip ~~(6)~~.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Spot welding tongs according to ~~claims~~ claim 4, wherein at least one cover plate ~~(18)~~ is arranged on the end sides ~~(17)~~ of the side pieces ~~(16)~~ to cover the guiding groove ~~(8)~~ formed between the side pieces ~~(16)~~.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): Spot welding tongs according to claim 1, wherein the tong arm ~~(3)~~ is formed by a base section with the guiding groove ~~(8)~~ being incorporated in the base section ~~(15)~~.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Spot welding tongs according to claim 1, wherein the guiding groove ~~(8)~~ is formed by additional guiding elements ~~(19)~~ which are provided, for instance slipped or screwed, on the tong arm ~~(3)~~ and/or electrode holder ~~(4)~~.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): Spot welding tongs according to claim 1, wherein the tong arm ~~(3)~~ is comprised of several individual components ~~(29)~~ which are connected with one another in a manner that a hollow space ~~(21)~~ is formed in the center of the tong arm ~~(3)~~ for the guidance of the strip ~~(6)~~.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): Spot welding tongs according to claim 1, wherein a braking device ~~(22)~~ is provided to fix and stretch the strip ~~(6)~~.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): Spot welding tongs according to claim 9, wherein the braking device ~~(22)~~ is connected with a control unit ~~(23)~~.

Claims 11-18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (New): Spot welding tongs comprising:

a plurality of tong arms;

a base body wherein said plurality of tong arms are each pivotally mounted on said base body;

an actuating means, wherein said tong arms are adjustable by said actuating means;

a plurality of electrode holders;

a plurality of electrodes wherein at least one electrode of said plurality of electrodes is fastened to at least one of said plurality of electrode holders;

a strip;

a winding mechanism coupled to the base body, and comprising a wind-off roller and a wind-up roller for winding off and on said strip for the protection of at least one electrode of said plurality of electrodes wherein said wind-off roller and said wind-up roller of the winding mechanism are arranged on said base body; and

at least one guiding groove disposed on at least one of said tong arms for the guidance of said strip along said tong arm.

20. The spot welding tongs as in claim 19, wherein said electrode holder further comprises at least one groove.

Claim 21 (New): Spot welding tongs comprising:

a plurality of tong arms;

a base body wherein said plurality of tong arms are each pivotally mounted on said base body;

an actuating means, wherein said tong arms are adjustable by said actuating means;

a plurality of electrode holders;

a plurality of electrodes wherein at least one electrode of said plurality of electrodes is fastened to at least one of said plurality of electrode holders;

a strip;

a winding mechanism coupled to the base body and comprising a wind-off roller and a wind-up roller for winding off and on said strip for the protection of at least one electrode of said

plurality of electrodes wherein said wind-off roller and said wind-up roller of the winding mechanism are arranged on said base body; and

at least one guiding groove disposed on said electrode holder for the guidance of said strip.